

REMARKS

Claims 3-4, 6-7, 9-13 and 16-29 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-2, 5, 8, and 14-15 were previously cancelled. Claims 23 and 28 have been amended in view of the Examiner's rejections. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the following amendments and remarks.

All of the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Khandros et al. in view of one or more of Klocke et al. and Brook et al.

However, the primary Khandros et al. reference was filed on April 10, 2003 which is four months after the German priority date of the present application and can not properly be used as a reference.

Attached hereto please find a translation of the German application (EXHIBIT A) and a statement by the undersigned that the translation is accurate.

Therefore, since the primary reference can not properly be applied against the claims, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are now allowable.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone James C. Kesterson, Applicants' attorney, at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, should one be deemed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge, or credit any overpayment, Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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